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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-23 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification is amended; claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; claims 1, 3, and 17 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and features of claim 2 have also been incorporated independent claim 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 17, and dependent claims 3-16 and 18-23, are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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